



**R. Booth Goodwin II, United States Attorney
Southern District of West Virginia**

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CONTACT: Melvin Smith

800-659-8726*(304)345-2200

Melvin.Smith@usdoj.gov

OHIO WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON ON FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Mika Lynn Ross, also known as “Mika Myers,” 33, of South Point, Ohio, was sentenced to 87 months in prison today by United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers on federal drug charges. Ross pleaded guilty in September 2010 to aiding and abetting the distribution of cocaine base, known as “crack.” On August 19, 2010, Ross admitted to aiding and abetting the sale of crack cocaine to an undercover member of the Huntington Violent Crimes and Drug Task Force. During the drug transaction, the defendant searched parts of the interior of a vehicle occupied by the undercover officer at the time, to determine whether any recording devices were present. Myers further admitted to searching the vehicle for a recording device while an associate proceeded to sell crack to the undercover agent. In March 2006, the Cabell County Sheriff’s Department arrested Ross and three other individuals in a hotel room at the Huntington Inn. Upon entering the hotel room, officers noticed crack cocaine and a digital scale in plain view. At that time, Ross admitted to being in possession of 80.9 grams of crack cocaine which she had intended to sell for profit. On other occasions, Ross admitted to traveling with associates on several trips to Detroit to obtain crack or powder cocaine. During the trips to Detroit, Ross and fellow associates traveled with thousands of dollars in cash that was intended to be used to complete drug transactions. Ross further admitted to being responsible for approximately 1.5 to 4.5 kilograms of crack cocaine.

The Huntington Violent Crimes and Drug Task Force and the Cabell County Sheriff’s Office conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Greg McVey handled the prosecution.

This case was prosecuted as part of the Huntington area’s Drug Market Intervention (DMI) initiative. The DMI initiative was launched in October 2010 by Huntington Police Chief Skip Holbrook and U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin, in collaboration with other federal, state, local law enforcement agencies and representatives from the Fairfield West Improvement Council and the Fairfield Crime and Safety Committee of Huntington.

Drug Market Intervention, which was first implemented in High Point, North Carolina, was initiated in Huntington as a strategic problem-solving effort aimed at closing down open-air drug markets that breed crimes of violence and disorder. As part of the strategy, certain offenders were identified for prosecution. For other offenders, the strategy calls for a staged intervention where offenders, along with family members and other influential individuals, meet with law enforcement officials and members of the community.

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